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Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. World Muslim Congress

(General consultative status granted 1967)

Introduction

The World Muslim Congress, the oldest international Muslim organization, was founded in 1926. It works for peace on the basis of justice and friendship towards all. It is a non-political organization which firmly believes in the universal brotherhood of mankind without discrimination. It strives for interfaith dialogue aimed at creating mutual tolerance amongst the adherents of all religions.

As per its constitution, the organization has a president, two vice-presidents, one each from Africa and Asia, and has many branches in the world.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations activities and meetings

The organization has supported, and continues to fully support, the objectives and activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies. The permanent representative of the World Muslim Congress at Geneva has been actively participating in conferences and meetings, as indicated below:

Economic and Social Council substantive sessions	26 June–28 July 1995, 30 June–25 July 1997
Commission on Human Rights fiftieth to fifty-third sessions	31 January–11 March 1994, 30 January–10 March 1995, 18 March–26 April 1996, 10 March–18 April 1997
Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities	1–26 August 1994, 31 July–25 August 1995, 5–30 August 1996, 4–29 August 1997
Working Group on minorities	
First session	28 August–1 September 1995
Second session	30 April–3 May 1996
Third session	26–30 May 1997
International Committee of the Red Cross	14 October 1994, 10 October 1995
International non-governmental organizations meeting/European non-governmental organization symposium	2–4 September 1996, 25–28 August 1997
Non-governmental organization Committee on Freedom of Religion and Belief	15 August 1995

Periodic information meetings for non-governmental organizations.

Active participation during the period in the activities of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council.

Similarly, the representative of the World Muslim Congress to the United Nations in New York has been actively participating in the activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organizations concerning many subjects, including human rights, drug control, women in development, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and participated in the regular session of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Board held in New York in February 1995 and September 1996.

In addition, the organization participated in the Family Planning Conference held in Egypt and in the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in September 1995. The Secretary-General represented the organization at the fifth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Vienna in May 1996.

Some of the speeches delivered by the organization's representatives in forums of the Economic and Social Council pertain to human rights violations, drug control, rights and protection of children, women in development, crimes and criminal justice.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes

The organization has been particularly active in promoting United Nations programmes and objectives with regard to international peace and security, human rights, drug control and ensuring the legitimate role and rights of women and children, for which seminars have been held at regular intervals by the organization in almost all of the 35 countries where it has branches.

The President and Secretary-General of the organization have been quite active in striving to bring about peace in war-torn and devastated Afghanistan, for which

purpose they have been actively associated with various efforts made to resolve the Afghan conflict.

With a view to promoting interreligious understanding and furthering the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations at its fourth annual international conference, held in September 1997, the organization chose the subject of "The Muslim Ummah in the Next Century", at which Muslims and non-Muslim intellectuals and scholars, including the Chairman of the Millennium Institute, USA, and other non-Muslim scholars, actively participated. The conference discussed the contribution that Muslims can make to help resolve problems facing the human race.

Concerned about the abuses of children and for the protection of their rights, the organization has been pressing the Governments and non-governmental organizations of Muslim countries to give priority to the subject and, where feasible, has recommended the introduction of requisite legislation to achieve the objectives. As a result of the organization's lobbying with the parliamentarians of Pakistan, many administrative measures were adopted by that Government to implement the Economic and Social Council programmes relating to the rights and protection of children.

Other relevant activities

During the period, the World Muslim Congress gave substantial aid, in the form of medicines, clothing and food, to the victims of Serbian aggression in Bosnia. Given in 1994 and 1995 the aid included specific aid for children, sent through UNICEF.

With regard to the protection of the rights of minorities the Secretary-General has been in constant contact with the leaders of the minority communities in Pakistan with a view to assisting them and ensuring for them equitable justice and rights. The organization organized a Muslim-Christian dialogue in Islamabad.

The organization has been very closely associated with the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) and the Secretary-General of the organization was nominated as President of WCRP in 1994. He attended the sixth General Assembly meeting of WCRP, held in December 1995.

For a long time now, the organization has been publishing a weekly review of world events. The review reflects the achievements, work and activities of the Untied Nations and copies of the publication reach many countries of the world.

2. World Student Christian Federation

(Special consultative status granted 1970)

Introduction, aims and purpose

The World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) is an international association which unites Christian movements or associations of students and other members of the academic community in regions and throughout the world. The Federation currently has 97 national movements, which are grouped into six regions, namely, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and the Middle East. Each region has an office in Nairobi, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Caracas and Beirut, respectively. North America, which has only two movements, does not have a regional office.

The number of movements has increased since the last report. Movements from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Czech Republic, Jordan, Honduras, Namibia, Hungary, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and the United States of America were received into membership at the General Assembly held in Côte d'Ivoire in August–September 1995.

During the quadrennium under review, WSCF celebrated its centenary. The programmes were mainly in the areas of leadership development, women's empowerment, human rights education, economic literacy and justice, peace initiatives and conflict resolution, critique of higher education in the light of the social, economic and political context, ethical and faith-based response to globalization.

Participation in United Nations-related programmes and cooperation with the United Nations and related agencies

Being a student organization, with a special interest in the relationship of the various programme areas mentioned above to education and the impact on students, the relations of WSCF with the United Nations have been strongest through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). During the quadrennium under review, WSCF participated in the following UNESCO collective consultations:

In 1995, the WSCF representative from France attended the collective consultation on the theme "The Social Role and Employment of Graduates in the 21st Century". Among other tasks, the meeting considered a report on the proceedings of a debate initiated by UNESCO to mark its

fiftieth anniversary. The report entitled "Higher Education in the 21st Century: A student perspective", drew from the outcome of various consultations and debates which the various non-governmental organizations in the UNESCO forum had undertaken up to 1995. The document dealt mainly with three questions: Why do we study? What do we study? How do we study? WSCF had made a contribution to the document from its extensive report of the consultation on higher education, which was held in Bangkok earlier in the year.

In September 1996, the Co-Secretary-General attended the fifth non-governmental organization collective consultation, student/employer forum on graduate employment, held at UNESCO headquarters from 16 to 17 September. The theme of the forum was "Higher education and the consequences of change for graduate employment".

In February 1997, the Co-Secretary-General attended a follow-up non-governmental organization collective consultation on the theme "Higher education and the consequences of change for graduate employment". The forum focused on the changing labour-market patterns and their implications for higher education.

Change of consultative status

Following the change of UNESCO consultative status categories from three categories (A, B and C) to two, namely "Formal relations" and "Operational relations", WSCF, which had consultative status under category B, has now been admitted to the "Operational relations" category.

World Student Christian Federation representation and participation in other United Nations meetings

The Co-Secretary-General and a group of members from the different regions attended the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in March 1995. The WSCF delegation participated actively in the non-governmental organization forum preceding the World Summit and WSCF organized two meetings at the non-governmental organization forum, one on the theme of alternatives and paradigms and the other on North-South dialogue.

A month prior to the World Summit, the Co-Secretary-General and two other representatives participated in the third preparatory committee meeting, which took place in New York at United Nations Headquarters. The preparatory meeting involved the meeting of various caucuses. The WSCF representatives played a key role in preparing the human rights caucus and also participated in the caucuses on women and on development.

In 1996, the Co-Secretary-General attended the United Nations Human Rights Commission, starting first with the special working group on indigenous peoples and minorities.

In 1996, representatives from the WSCF movements in Ecuador, France and Norway attended the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) held in Istanbul, Turkey.

In 1997, WSCF was represented at the Human Rights Commission by delegates from Germany and Sri Lanka.

The accredited representative also represented WSCF at the following meetings in New York:

Follow-up meeting to the World Summit for Social Development, held in New York from 21 to 31 May 1996. Attendance at the meeting was by special invitation, based on the fact that WSCF had been accredited to the World Summit.

The forty-ninth annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organization Conference held from 10 to 12 September 1996. The Conference was important for WSCF in that it was aimed at highlighting the partnership between the United Nations and civil society leading to the strengthening of the United Nations.

Conclusion

Given the Federation's limitations in terms of human and financial resources, its participation in United Nations and United Nations-related meetings and activities has been restricted to some extent. These next few years will probably see more strengthening of the Federation's participation in those issues that directly concern its constituency (students and education) and that are more in line with its identity and nature as a student organization. In this respect, its relationship with and participation in UNESCO will become an area of priority.

3. World Society for the Protection of Animals

(Special consultative status granted 1981)

Introduction

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) was founded in 1981 as a result of a merger of the International Society for the Protection of Animals and the

World Federation for the Protection of Animals which, in turn, were founded in 1959 and 1950, respectively.

The Society's purposes are "to promote effective means for the protection of animals, the prevention of cruelty to animals, and the relief of suffering to animals". This is carried out through international programmes of education and direct aid through WSPA's eight international offices, located in Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Germany, Kenya, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The membership of WSPA includes more than 350 animal protection organizations in over 70 countries, as well as tens of thousands of individual members, each serviced through regional offices. The WSPA publication *Animals International* is published twice yearly. Each regional office publishes and circulates its own publication. These vary from updates on dog population control seminars, advanced training for local veterinarians, seminars on care and maintenance of working animals, veterinary aid and technicians following man-made and natural disaster.

Through its status with the Economic and Social Council, WSPA receives requests for assistance from many Member States on a variety of issues.

Assistance to Governments

Time	*Government*	*Assistance provided*	*Key contact(s)*
1994	Czech Republic	Provided model laws, conventions information and advice. Subsequently analysed draft law and provided full comments on request, many of which were incorporated. The law was passed in 1994.	Ing. Z. Burda, Central Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, Prague
1994	Cuba	Provided emergency euthanasia drugs/training to Government.	Ministry of Agriculture and City Council
1994	El Salvador	Developed legislation to control exploitation of wildlife.	
1994	Guatemala	Livestock transport and slaughter training project.	Ministry of Agriculture
1994	Nicaragua	Assisted in repairing zoological park.	
1994	Ukraine	Developed stray dog/rabies control programme.	Mr. O. Omelchenko Mayor of Kiev
1994	Costa Rica	Developed protocol to restock natural areas with rehabilitated endangered species. Developed spay/neuter programme to control domestic animal population in Indian Tribal areas.	Ministry of Health, Zoonosis Department
1995	Cuba	Provided essential food and veterinary supplies to animals in Cuba.	ANIPLANT Ministry of Agriculture
1996	Bahamas	Sponsored seminar, with the departments of police and judicial forces to train local authorities on anti-cruelty legislation.	Ministry of Health Ministry of Tourism
1996	El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras	Developed training courses for military designed to teach about conservation issues, endangered species and tactics used by wildlife smugglers.	Various agencies of the three Governments
1996	Kenya	Provided assistance to projects breeding endangered tortoises.	Philip Mwakio, Provincial Director, Kenya Wildlife Services
1996	Namibia	Developed and provided materials for student education programmes.	Katoma Lioni-Nyanyukweni, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Windock.
1996	Rwanda	Provided veterinary supplies.	Ministry Iyamuremye Augustin, Ministry of Agriculture, Kigali
1996	Thailand	Developed a purpose-built bear sanctuary for bears confiscated from the wildlife trade.	Preecha Rattanaporn – Wildlife Conservation Division, Royal Forest Department, Bangkok. Dr. Viroj Pimmanrojnagool, Director of Wildlife Conservation Department, Royal Forestry Department Bangkok.
1997	Brazil	Hosted conference on animal issues/dog control.	
1997	Bulgaria	Worked with Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to eradicate dancing bears from the streets.	Dr. Vassil Stiptzov – Vice Chief of National Forestry Board, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Mayor of Sofia
1997	Ethiopia	Evaluate methods of production of civet musk for international cosmetics industry.	Getenet Wondimu Dr. Shiferaw Fakadu Minessie Garshaw, Director Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organization, Ministry of Wildlife, Addis Ababa

Time	*Government*	*Assistance provided*	*Key contact(s)*
1997	Hungary	Worked with local authorities to move 20 bears from a waste-ground holding area to a purpose-built bear enclosure.	Mayor of Verseguhaz, Mayor of Godollo
1997	Italy	Advised the Municipality of Capri on stray dog control, construction of clinic	Mayor of Capri
1997	Nicaragua	Training programmes for equine specialists to educate on farrying techniques and basic veterinary care	Ministry of Agriculture
1997	Poland	Developed stray dog/rabies control programme, organized conference for state veterinarians	Urzad Miejski President of Bydoszcz
1997	United Republic of Tanzania	Developed and provided materials for student education programmes in Zanzibar	Haroun Suleiman, Deputy Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education, Zanzibar
1997	United Republic of Tanzania	Provided assistance to projects breeding endangered tortoises in Zanzibar	Andrew Katema, Director Ministry of Tourism, Zanzibar
1994–1997	Ecuador	Advised government authorities on protection of endangered spectacled bear	Ministry of Environment
1994–1997	Hungary	Provided model laws, conventions, information and advice. Subsequently analysed draft laws and provided full comments on request, many of which were incorporated. The law was passed in 1998.	Ministry of the Environment Federation of SPAs
1994–1997	Pakistan	Advised Government on illegal activities relating to the dancing and fighting of bears	Rafiq Ahmad – Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment
1994–1997	Poland	Provided model laws, conventions, information and advice. Subsequently analysed draft laws and provided full comments on request, many of which were incorporated. The law was passed in 1997.	Ministry of Agriculture
1994–1997	Turkey	Worked with the Ministry of Forestry to eradicate the use of dancing bears and to build a bear sanctuary in a National Park	Sabit Tarhan, National Parks and Wildlife, General Directorate, Ministry of Forestry, Ankara Muhittin Kizilel – Director, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Ankara Ministry of Tourism, Ankara
1994–1995	Estonia	Provided model laws, conventions, information and advice. Subsequently analysed draft laws and provided full comments on request, many of which were incorporated. The law was passed in 1995.	EASAW Tartu
1994–1995	Slovakia	Provided model laws, conventions, information and advice. Subsequently analysed draft laws and provided full comments on request, many of which were incorporated. The law was passed in 1995.	Bohumil Lovas Veterinary Department Ministry of Agriculture Bratislava
1994–1995	United Republic of Tanzania	Developed/evaluated transport and slaughter of livestock	Dr. Yusuf Sembiko, Principal Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Dar es Salaam
1996–1997	Montserrat	Disaster relief for animals affected by ongoing volcanic activity, including airlifts of companion animals.	Claude Gerald Ministry of Agriculture
1996–1997	United Republic of Tanzania	Vaccination project for all domestic dogs on perimeter of Serengeti National Park to prevent Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) in wildlife	Mr. Mollel, Principal Secretary Dr. Kimati Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Time	*Government*	*Assistance provided*	*Key contact(s)*
1994–continuing	Belarus	Provided model laws, conventions, information and advice.	Mr. P. Zhushma, MP International Relations Committee, Minsk
1994–continuing	Bulgaria	Provided model laws, conventions, information and advice. A preliminary draft has now been prepared.	NFPAB Wilderness Fund, Sofia
1994–continuing	Croatia	Provided model laws, conventions, information and advice. A preliminary draft has now been prepared.	Mrs. A. Karakas Veterinary Inspector Ministry of Agriculture, Zagreb
1994–continuing	Cyprus	Drafted Animal Protection Law, developed programme for stray dog/rabies control. Training programmes for farriers/veterinarians on hoof treatments.	Dr. P. Economides Ministry of Agriculture
1994–continuing	El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua	Organized strategy meetings with officials of the Departments of Wildlife, Customs, Policy and Military on the contraband traffic of wildlife.	Various agencies of the three Governments
1994–continuing	India	Stray dog/rabies control project, training municipal employees in catching, handling and neutering techniques.	Mayor of Jaipur
1994–continuing	Indonesia	Assisted with emergency supplies for endangered orangutan rescue and rehabilitation project.	Ministry for Wildlife and Forests
1994–continuing	Kenya	Developed and provided materials for student education programmes.	Daniel Sang, HSC, Senior Director of Education, Ministry of Education, Nairobi
1994–continuing	Kenya	Developed programme for Islamic authorities to control feline population.	Dr. I Ragwa, DVI Isiolo District, Government Veterinary Department
1994–continuing	Lithuania	Provided model laws, conventions, information and advice.	Prof. K. Trayinus Kaunas
1994–continuing	Romania	Provided model laws, conventions, information and advice.	Mr. V. Dianconu Ministry of the Environment Bucharest
1994–continuing	Russian Federation	Provided model laws, conventions, information and advice. A preliminary draft has now been prepared.	Tatyana Pavlova Moscow
1994–continuing	Slovenia	Provided model laws, conventions, information and advice. A preliminary draft has now been prepared.	L. E. Muller Ljubljana
1994–continuing	Taiwan, Province of China	Developed stray dog control programmes, training in euthanasia, assisted with legislation.	Mr. Ling Shaung-Nung Council of Agriculture
1994–continuing	Turkey	Developed programmes for stray dog/rabies control.	Dr. M. Eker Ministry of Agriculture
1994–continuing	Ukraine	Provided model laws, conventions, information and advice. A preliminary draft has now been prepared.	Kiev APS-SOS
1995–continuing	Dominican Republic	Provided appropriate harnesses to be used as a construction model. Will assist in continuing veterinary training programme.	City Council, Santo Domingo
1995–continuing	Costa Rica	Continuation of training programme, distribution of materials and educational books for ongoing pilot programme in 12 schools.	Ministry of Education
1995–continuing	Cameroon	Assisted Government in developing sanctuaries to receive and maintain illegally captured primates (gorillas/chimps) taken from wild for exotic pet trade.	Mr. Joseph Mengagn, Chief Engineer, Mr. Lima, Deputy Director, Mr. Yadji Bello, Director Ministry of Environment, Yaounde

Time	*Government*	*Assistance provided*	*Key contact(s)*
1995–continuing	United Republic of Tanzania	Evaluation of international trade of native species.	M.A. Ndolanga, Director of Wildlife Julius Kibebe, CITES
1996–continuing	Congo	Assisted Government in developing sanctuaries to receive and maintain illegally captured primates (gorillas/chimps) taken from wild for exotic pet trade.	Dr. Ruftin Oko, Wildlife Adviser to the Ministry, Ministry of Environment, Brazzaville
1996–continuing	India	Assisted in evaluation to prevent the trade in wild bears used for dancing bear trade.	Ministry of Environment Mr. Sahib Singh, Chief Ministry of Delhi State
1997–continuing	Egypt	Developed programme to control stray dog population (rabies control). Evaluate international traffic of native wildlife.	Dr. Yusuf Walli, Ministry of Agriculture, Moustafa Awad Moustafa, Deputy Prime Ministry of Egypt General Undersecretary of Zoos and Wildlife, Cairo
1997–continuing	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Developed a programme for the long-term care and well-being of large apes taken illegally from the wild for the exotic pet trade.	Mr. Benoit Kena, Secretary General, Ministry of Environment, Kinshasa Mr. Jean Sombe, Divisional Chief, Mr. Yambele Muteba, Director of the Cabinet, Kinshasa

4. World Veterans Federation

(General consultative status granted 1952)

Introduction

The World Veterans Federation (WVF) is an organization grouping national associations or federations and international organizations of war veterans and victims of war, and persons having served in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The aims of WVF are: promote international peace and security by the application of the Charter of the United Nations and the International Bill of Human Rights; defend the spiritual and material interests of veterans and victims of war; establish permanent relations between their organizations and encourage international cooperation and understanding.

Since 1 January 1994, the membership of WVF increased by 11 countries, with the admission of national associations in Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Latvia, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Tunisia, and by 12 associations (including one association of personnel having served in United Nations peacekeeping operations) from countries already represented within WVF. The WVF membership now includes 144 associations from 77 countries, representing 27 million people in all the regions of the world (Africa: 23 countries, North and South America: 3 countries, Asia and the Pacific: 15 countries, Europe: 36 countries).

Participation

During the period under review, WVF representatives attended all sessions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women (written and oral statements on the Draft Platform for Action for the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women, thirty-ninth session, 1995), and the Commission on Social Development. The Federation was present at all regular sessions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (and at other ESCAP meetings, for example all sessions of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development and the fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development (Manila, November 1997)). The Federation is represented at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and maintains an ad hoc working relationship with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

WVF representatives attended the following United Nations Conferences: World Summit for Social Development; Fourth World Conference on Women; Habitat II; Non-Proliferation Treaty Extension and the Preparatory Committee for the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

Cooperation

WVF cooperates occasionally with the International Labour Office in the field of legal, economic and social protection of veterans and victims of war and with the World Health Organization sectors dealing with mental illness and the disabled. The Federation also maintains consultative relations with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNESCO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Consultation and cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat

The officers of WVF were received by the United Nations Secretary-General. The Secretary-General addressed messages and designated representatives to all WVF major meetings. Consultative and working relations were maintained with senior officials from the following departments or sectors: Disarmament Affairs, Political Affairs, Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian Affairs, Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, Human Rights, Advancement of Women, Non-Governmental Organization Section in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Expert advice

WVF presented a paper entitled "History of WVF Standing Committee on Women: A Case Study of Change in an International NGO Active in Peace Efforts and Support of Multilateral Strategies" to the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women experts meeting on the role of women in decision-making and conflict resolution, held in Santo Domingo from 7 to 11 October 1996.

Strengthening of the United Nations

As in the past, WVF and its member associations called for the strengthening of the United Nations, in particular in the fields of international security, peace, disarmament, peacekeeping and peacemaking, human rights, economic and social development. This was done, *inter alia*, through resolutions adopted unanimously by WVF General Assemblies (1994 and 1997) and the Council (1995), subsequently submitted to the United Nations Member States

(through national associations), to relevant United Nations bodies and given wide public circulation.

WVF also contributed to collective efforts of non-governmental organizations in support of the United Nations, within the framework of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council and its special committees.

Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations

WVF used this important occasion to generate within its own constituency and outside even stronger interest in and support of international cooperation through the mechanisms provided by the United Nations. At the headquarters level, working relationships were maintained with the United Nations Secretariat for the fiftieth anniversary and most member associations were involved in national activities, often linked with the commemoration of the end of the Second World War.

Resolutions related to the fiftieth anniversary were adopted by the twenty-first WVF General Assembly held in Bordeaux (1994) and by the Council Meeting held in Marrakech (1995) where, in addition, a special day was dedicated to its observance.

5. World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

The World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) works for the advancement of women by promoting the presence, participation and co-responsibility of Catholic women in church and society. Started in 1910, it has 93 member organizations in 56 countries, including 4 international organizations. New members have joined from Australia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Hungary, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Tonga, Uruguay and Wales. WUCWO is represented at United Nations Headquarters and in Geneva and Vienna, as well as at the United Nations agencies with which it has consultative status, namely, UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) (Special list).

Participation in conferences and other meetings

WUCWO representatives have taken part in each session of the Economic and Social Council. They have also attended regular sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Population and Development, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the UNICEF Executive Board, as well as the United Nations General Assembly, the Executive Councils and General Conferences of UNESCO and FAO, and selected sessions of the ILO Annual Conferences. In addition, WUCWO participated in the United Nations preparatory committees (and relevant non-governmental organization planning committees) for the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo), the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen), the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing) and the Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul). Several WUCWO representatives from different continents attended the United Nations conferences in Cairo, Copenhagen and Beijing.

Representatives participated in the launching of the International Year of the Family in Malta.

Statements

As the interests of WUCWO are focused on social and economic development, oral and written statements are submitted jointly with other non-governmental organizations. The areas of concern are, *inter alia*, women's health, violence against women, family, the girl child, ageing, women and men sharing power and decision-making at all levels, AIDS, the environment, lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women, food security, extreme poverty, structural adjustment imbalances, support for rural women and migrants, nutrition, sexual violence against children, child prostitution, pornography, rape as a war crime, prohibition of landmines, education, traditional practices affecting women, discrimination affecting women and their status, racial discrimination, women's unpaid work, strategies for development, ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

WUCWO has been in dialogue with WHO and private funding agencies to conduct a project for the elimination of trachoma in several African nations beginning with the

United Republic of Tanzania. WUCWO has obtained private financing for "Women Hold Up Half the Sky" campaign of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). It has secured continuing financial support for the United Nations Programme on Ageing to prepare for the launch of the International Year of Older Persons.

Other relevant activities

WUCWO maintains Commissions on Human Rights, Family and Development Cooperation. An International Committee regulates its representation at the United Nations and its agencies. Working groups on health, elimination of violence against women and women in decision-making focus on the implementation of those three areas of critical concern for women identified in the Beijing Platform for Action. WUCWO served as Chair of the United Nations non-governmental organization Committee on the Family, Secretary of the United Nations non-governmental organization Committee on Shelter and Community, Secretary of the United Nations non-governmental organization Committee on Ageing, Chair of the non-governmental organization Committee on UNIFEM Task Force on Elimination of Violence against Women and the Task Force on Women in Decision-making on the United Nations non-governmental organization Committee on the Status of Women. WUCWO participated actively in the non-governmental organization Committees at the various United Nations centres dealing with United Nations issues, for example, ageing, human rights, narcotics and substance abuse, sustainable development, status of women, women refugees, women and employment, family, alliance of non-governmental organizations on crime prevention and criminal justice, shelter and community, advocates for African food security, non-governmental organization Committees on UNICEF and UNIFEM and FAO and their subcommittees.

Five WUCWO regional conferences were held during 1993–1994 in the United States, Senegal, New Zealand, Panama and Paris, to further knowledge and work on those issues.

WUCWO invited member organizations to United Nations Headquarters for seminars in which attendees heard speakers from the Division for the Advance of Women, the World Bank, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, ILO and the Office for Preventive and Diplomatic Peacemaking. Priorities chosen by WUCWO for special attention and action by member organizations were women's health, elimination of violence against women and women in decision-making.

In October 1997, a meeting of all WUCWO representatives to the United Nations (New York, Geneva), UNESCO, FAO and ILO, and also to the Council of Europe, took place in Rome. Together with the Administrative Board of WUCWO, they reflected on their responsibilities in the service of women.

Following the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, WUCWO conducted worldwide surveys on women in decision-making, women's health and on violence against women. Each survey covered the full membership of the organization and forms an excellent benchmark on which to judge progress in those areas.

Publications

A Newsletter in English, French, German and Spanish is issued three or four times a year, copies of which are sent to all United Nations Centres. It disseminates United Nations information to all members.

Membership

The WUCWO membership is composed of 89 national and 4 international organizations, divided regionally as follows:

Africa — 18 organizations, 7 million members:

Cameroon (2); Democratic Republic of the Congo; Ghana (2); Kenya; Liberia (working from Ghana); Madagascar; Mauritius; Nigeria; Senegal; Sierra Leone; South Africa (2); Swaziland; United Republic of Tanzania; Togo; Zambia.

Asia-Pacific — 13 organizations, 3 million members:

Australia (2); Fiji; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Japan; New Zealand; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; South Korea and Tonga.

Europe — 40 organizations, 5 million members:

Austria (2); Belgium (3); Czech Republic; Denmark; England (4); Finland; France; Germany (3); Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy (2); Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands (6); Norway; Poland; Slovak Republic; Spain (5); Switzerland (2); and Wales.

Latin America and the Caribbean — 11 organizations, 3 million members:

Argentina (5); Cuba; Mexico (3); Panama; Uruguay.

North America — 6 organizations, 4 million members:

Canada (5); United States (1).

International organizations: estimated membership of 450,000.

This gives a world total of 22.5 million members.

Due to communication difficulties and the diverse nature of our organizations, it is not possible to give exact figures. In some countries, a single member organization is in fact a national umbrella organization and in others, several different organizations are all members of WUCWO. WUCWO is currently in the process of trying to obtain more precise figures.

6. World Vision International

(Special consultative status granted 1985)

Introductory statement

World Vision International (WVI) is an international Christian relief and development organization with programmes assisting children, their families and communities in 94 countries. The organization's aims include transformational community development; emergency relief; public awareness through advocacy; and Christian compassion, action and reconciliation.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

World Vision International maintains special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The WVI partnership has been actively involved in key Economic and Social Council issues including sustainable development, population, environment, women and rights of the child.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

WVI has official observers at United Nations agencies in New York, Geneva and Vienna. WVI is also a member of the UNICEF non-governmental organization Committee and has official relations with WHO. World Vision's work with the United Nations occurs at several levels, namely, public policy/advocacy, regional/technical programmes and operational cooperation. Highlights of World Vision's involvement with United Nations agencies during the period 1994–1997 include:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Shared projects have included collaborating in an income generation plan to 10,000 internally displaced families in Azerbaijan; a project implementing the Convention to Combat Desertification in Senegal that won the United Nations Environment Programme Award in 1995; development and microenterprise training programmes in Malawi; a resettlement programme for ex-combatants in norther Mali (*Programme de Reinsertion des Ex-combattants dans le Nord du Mali*) 1997; human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) awareness, education, prevention and care programme in Myanmar, 1997. Other shared projects included planning workshops focused on balancing development activities at the district level in Malawi and a 1997 forest rehabilitation and disaster management in Mongolia project that included baseline surveys and community education workshops. World Vision also represented all Senegalese non-governmental organizations at the Convention to Combat Desertification since the Rio conference up to the first Conference of Parties held in Rome in October 1997 in conferences, seminars, field technical experiments, and providing community information.

UNICEF. Collaboration occurs at the technical, advocacy and operational levels. Since 1994, World Vision has averaged five UNICEF-supported projects per year. Most of these involve water development and child immunization programmes. Participating countries have included Malawi, Kenya, the Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Senegal. Additionally, in Burundi, programmes assist unaccompanied children and conduct pilot income-generating projects (1995–1997). UNICEF partner projects include programmes which provide education training for volunteer teachers in Honduras; child survival programmes in Mali; strategic planning workshops for local non-governmental organizations in Myanmar; urban development services in India; assistance to street children in Cambodia; an awareness and training team project on land mines at the UNICEF International Child Development Centre in Florence, Italy, by World Vision Cambodian staff (1996). A joint advocacy effort with UNICEF in Uganda which focused on child soldiers resulted in the publication of *Shattered Innocence*, in 1997. World Vision's Canada staff presented a workshop at the Beijing Conference on Women focused on the girl child. Panellists represented

Somalia, China, the Philippines and Bangladesh, moderated by a Canadian WV executive.

WHO. World Vision International has maintained formal consultative status with WHO since 1989. Cooperative activities since 1994 have included the Health Promoting Schools initiative in Mongolia; collaboration on health projects in Jakarta; and annual promotion throughout the WVI partnership of World Health Day through public-awareness programmes.

UNIFEM. Collaborative efforts have included programmes focused on gender issues in Senegal.

UNHCR. World Vision has collaborated both as a funding partner in emergencies as well as in programme implementation. Among the larger programmes have been the United Republic of Tanzania's Kyarugusu and Kigoma Refugees Programme budgeted at over $1 million 1997/98, Zaire at $312,000, and Bosnia at $549,000. Other major refugee work have included programmes in Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Malawi, Mali (integrated with a sustainable development programme), Mauritania and Uganda.

WFP. In addition to maintaining formal consultative status, collaborations fall into three areas: assessment, resourcing, and implementation. A food security assessment was completed in October 1997 in the United Republic of Tanzania in the context of more than $1.6 million in food and cash invested 1995 to date. Current food distribution projects in Azerbaijan total $3.5 million. The Sierra Leone relief programme matched $200,000 in WV funding with $135,089 in WFP cash and $3.4 million GIK in 1996, plus $230,673 in cash and $1.7 million GIK in 1997. Other projects included Cambodia, Congo, Honduras (benefiting 5,800 families in a FFW programme), Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic (distributing 4,000 MT tons of rice in 1997), Liberia (budget $250,000), Malawi, Somalia, and Swaziland.

UNOCHA. Primary collaboration took place in Georgia emphasizing work in the tinderbox Abkhazia region. Official WV United Nations representatives regularly attend monthly Office for the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs/INTERACTION meetings for non-governmental organizations at the United Nations.

Other relevant activities

World Vision was accredited and participated in the World Conference on Human Rights, the World Summit on Social Development, the International Conference on Population and Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women (held in Beijing). World Vision's United Kingdom office received an honorable mention in 1997 by the International Public Relations Association and the United Nations Department of Public Information for public awareness efforts focused on world hunger. World Vision provides extensive public-awareness support and education for United Nations-focused activities through its various magazines, newsletters, publications, special events (such as 24-Hour Famine) and donor communications materials.